Lesson Review: Concrete & Masonry

Subpart Q - Concrete and Masonry Construction - Subpart Q prescribes performance-oriented requirements designed to protect all construction workers from the hazards associated with concrete and masonry construction.

Some of the most cited serious violations of subpart Q include:
- Failure to protect employees from impalement when rebar is not capped or covered
- Failure to establish a limited access zone (LAZ) to limit the number of workers in the danger zone where a masonry wall is under construction
- Failure to brace unsupported section of masonry wall over 8 feet in height
- Failure to have drawings or plans at the jobsite to indicate jack layout and formwork placement.

Note the following key points from this lesson:
- Common hazards in the placement of concrete include impalement by unguarded rebar, struck by hazards, masonry wall hazards and silica exposure.
- Whenever a masonry wall is being constructed, employers must establish a limited access zone prior to the start of construction.
- Under OSHA’s General Requirements for the concrete and masonry standard, no loads are to be placed on concrete structures unless a qualified person determines the structure’s capable of supporting the loads.

Remember: According to OSHA standards for cast-in-place concrete, formwork must be designed, fabricated, erected, supported, braced, and maintained so that it will be capable of supporting without failure all vertical and lateral loads.

All safety equipment used in fall protection must be visually inspected before each use. There should also be routine inspections. Equipment should be properly cleaned and stored in a clean, dry place that is free of any harmful elements.